that they find it hard to maintain a consistent sense of narrative. Arieti, for example, finds that Presocratic philosophy is, 'despite its genius', fundamentally compromised by its failure to establish 'steady refinement or progress in the course of knowledge' (126). The way he tells it, this claim might be extended to the whole of ancient philosophy. But if the question is (not to dwell on the whiggishness) about engagement and development with a tradition, the failure here is purely historiographical in origin: it is there if you want to bring it out. Cue Roochnik's approach in *Retrieving the Ancients*. Roochnik's canvas is, to be fair, rather narrower than that of Arieti: he restricts himself to Presocratic and Classical philosophy. But he creates a good sense of narrative simply by taking a 'dialectical' approach to the subject, in which each thinker is read in reaction to their predecessors. Roochnik writes clearly, and simplifies intelligently; he draws connections between ancient to modern thought which would almost certainly not stand very much deeper scrutiny, but which at this level prove to be attractive and illuminating. I warmed to the book in other words – though in truth it required a little warming to. The introduction makes the egregious assertion that Greek philosophy 'culminated' in Aristotle (1), and the downright false claim that Aristotle 'became far and away the dominant thinker for at least the next 1,500 years' (2). Frankly prejudicial treatment of the 'mythological' writers in chapter 1 did not bode any better. (Consider the following claim on p. 15: 'Unlike the big-bang theory, there is no explanation of the beginning. For Hesiod, the world just popped up.' *Unlike* the big-bang theory, did you say?) But with Thales things began to look up; and by the time we reached the Sophists (compared to 20th century post-modernists), I was starting to enjoy the ride. The chapters on Plato and Aristotle are among the best general introductions to those thinkers available at this level.

doi: 10.1017/S0017383506000125 GEORGE BOYS-STONES

General

Another set of reviews brings another cluster of books about women in antiquity. First an interesting and attractive collection of essays on *Women Poets in Ancient Greece and Rome*,[1] which ranges in chronological extent from Sappho to Sulpicia. The essays offer distinct perspectives on individual poetesses, but the volume is unified by its sensitivity to the tension between the lives of women in a male-dominated ancient world and the creativity which suffuses their words. For those who continue to recite the commonplace that 'we have only the voices of men from the ancient world', this book will come as an eye-opener; for those already attuned to the slight, but fascinating, glimpses available into the thought-world of women, the volume will offer a commentary on still relatively little studied texts. It would make an excellent accompaniment to a course on women's literature, whether specifically ancient or not, or to one on the role of women in classical antiquity. Another collection, but this time one of sources in translation is Lefkowitz and Fant's **Women's Life in Greece and Rome*.[2] This is, of course, already an extremely well-known and well-used volume, now in its third edition, and has already provided an invaluable route into many

[1] *Women Poets in Ancient Greece and Rome*. Edited by Ellen Greene. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 2005. Pp. xxi + 234. Paperback $16.95.

[2] *Women's Life in Greece and Rome*. A source book in translation. By Mary R. Lefkowitz and Maureen B. Fant. Duckworth, London, 2005; first edition 1982. Pp. xxvii + 420. Paperback £18.

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different aspects of the lives of women in the ancient world for over two decades. Starting with the voices of women themselves through the poetry which was the focus of our last book, it moves on to consider the views of women expressed by men and by philosophers – surely an overlapping pair – and then to two large sections on the legal status of women in Greek and Roman society. Public life and private life are followed by chapters on occupations and medicine, and the book culminates in a substantial and varied section on women in religion. One new element in this edition is a major appendix, which provides a guide to some of the recent work on this ever-expanding subject area. The vast scope and attention to detail which characterize this volume will ensure that it remains a treasure trove for anyone interested in women in antiquity. Next we move from a work of huge breadth to one which adopts a closer focus, but still one concerning women: *Women, Crime, and Punishment in Ancient Law and Society* has Greece as its geographical focus, to form a companion to a pre-existing volume of the same title focused on the Ancient Near East.[3] The chronological sweep undertaken by the author '1200 to 30 BCE' entails dealing with worlds as diverse as those of Mycenean Greece and Hellenistic Macedonia, and the rigidly systematic approach taken seems essential for the coherence of the book. It is not entirely clear that the enterprise is always methodologically strong – Homer, Sappho, Plato, and epigraphic sources receive fairly similar treatments in spite of the great generic and contextual differences between them, and the conclusions drawn often sound naïve to a classicist. To declare, on the basis of the fascinating but problematic Gortyn law-code, that 'The women of ancient Gortyn had a high social status, almost equal to that of men . . . The general impression of Gortyn, based on its laws, was of a stable and peaceful city-state with no need to resort to violence to fight crime or control the behavior of its citizens', strikes the reader as far-fetched and historically unaware. However, for such material and well-known classical texts to be treated with a fresh pair of eyes from outside the discipline always has the potential to offer new illumination and those who are interested in comparative law will find this volume a helpful introductory guide to what evidence remains. And now for some travel. *Wandering in Ancient Greek Culture* offers a fascinating treatment of a phenomenon which was both practically and conceptually central in the ancient world.[4] Wandering is, of course, a rather special kind of travel which is characterized by lack of direction and pace, so it would perhaps be misleading to think of it in the same terms as the high level of migration, trade, colonization, and so on, which has been so eloquently emphasized in recent years. But perhaps because of, rather than in spite of, the prevalence of travel in the ancient world, uncontrolled travel or wandering holds a prominent place in Greek literature, as this volume points out, almost always with a negative association of exile, madness, being displaced; the antithesis of the neat and successful *nostos*, the aim for all heroes being to reach base. The book itself offers its readers a form of journey, though not an aimless one, through the literature of Greece from the ultimate travel-text, the *Odyssey*, to the wanderings of the itinerant sophists in the early empire. This is a thoroughly researched and enticing book, which tackles a vast theme with considerable deftness and style. An unusual little book, also ostensibly on the theme of travel, but

[3] *Women, Crime, and Punishment in Ancient Law and Society*. Volume 2. Ancient Greece. By Elisabeth Meier Tetlow. Continuum Press, New York, 2005. Pp. xiv + 353. Hardback $35.

[4] *Wandering in Ancient Greek Culture*. By Silvia Montiglio. University of Chicago Press, 2005. Pp. xi + 290. Hardback £35.

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wholly different in tone and content is *Myth and Prehistoric Global Navigation. A Dialogue*.[5] J. J. Fraenkel, at the age of 93, has chosen to present his ideas on the relationship between travel myths, such as the *Odyssey* and the Argonautic expedition, and the reality of early navigation in the form of a fictitious conversation. This is a bold and imaginative approach to the presentation of some interesting observations, nicely poised between literary appreciation and a fascination with the possibilities and problems of prehistoric travel by sea, and backed up by more modern attempts at 'ancient navigation' such as those of Heyerdahl. The notes are deliberately kept quite separate from the text so as not to disrupt the flow of what is to some degree a piece of creative writing. It is not entirely clear that the format works – this reader was confused on more than one occasion as to quite what point was being made – academic prose style does have some advantages. But the attempt is lively and engaged, and displays an enviable breadth of knowledge. While we are on our travels, we should note in passing the appearance of a new edition of *The Kingdom of the Hittites*.[6] This substantial and comprehensive work has been further developed, with very considerable additional bibliography reflecting the growth in studies in this area since the first edition was published, and full account taken of recently discovered sources. Indeed one of the great strengths of the book remains its attempt to make the sources accessible. This is a serious work of scholarship and fundamental to study of the Hittites; its updating can only be welcomed. Wandering and the travels of a hero famously underpinned one of the primary foundation myths of Rome, but it is a different strand to the Rome story which gives our next book its starting point. *Romulus' Asylum* takes on the important and difficult task of exploring the tangled and intricate web of history, myth, and representation which comprised Roman identity, or rather identities, since the point of the book is to show how complex and multifaceted the origins of Rome and the Romans' self-perception were.[7] As her previous work would lead the reader to expect, Dench brings to her topic an engaging combination of sensitivity to the demands of extremely diverse material (archaeological, documentary, literary), attention to the nuances that separate different periods and different perspectives, and a historical imagination which enables her to cut a path through such a fraught subject area. She is rightly alert to more modern debates over ethnic identity (eg. at the start of chapter 4) which may offer illumination on the past, but also pleasingly and, especially in a book whose title includes the word 'Identities', refreshingly resistant to losing sight of her focus; namely, to explore, examine, and understand the creation of a set of identities which is historically and culturally grounded in the early period of Roman and Italian history. This is a superb treatment which will be of great value both to those who are interested in self-perception and self-presentation, and to those seeking important new insights on 'mainstream' topics such as the Roman citizenship and the notion of Italy. Indeed, if the book achieves its target, it will show that the two constituencies are one and the same. From colonization to colonialism. Barbara Goff has gathered together a collection of essays on *Classics and Colonialism* by a roll-call of

[5] *Myth and Prehistoric Global Navigation*. A Dialogue. By J. J. Fraenkel. Digitalis Books, Utrecht, 2005. Pp. 181. Paperback.

[6] *The Kingdom of the Hittites*. By Trevor Bryce. Oxford UP, 2005; first published 1998. Pp. xix + 554. Hardback £70.

[7] *Romulus' Asylum*. Roman Identities from the Age of Alexander to the Age of Hadrian. By Emma Dench. Oxford UP, 2005. Pp. xi + 441. Hardback £60.

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very serious classicists, who represent a wide range of expertises.[8] Through their different lenses of ancient history, philology, and literature, the contributors shed different hues of light on the central issue of the relationship between classical culture and the British empire, or rather the use of the former in articulating aspects of the latter. A particular strength is the way in which the focalization changes from chapter to chapter. So, Harrison in chapter one deals with the reading of the Athenian and British empires from the perspective of the imperial power; Vasunia does the same *mutatis mutandis* for the Roman and British empires; but Greenwood turns the tables and examines the appropriation of Classical language and literature in the Caribbean, that is the interesting adoption of a ruling culture by a ruled one, and Budelmann performs a similar task for the adaptation of Greek tragedy in West Africa. All in all, this is a rich, varied, and thought-provoking volume. Staying with the relationship between ancient and modern worlds, we move to the history of scholarship. It is good to see the appearance of another excellent volume from the Institute of Classical Studies in London, namely *Reading Inscriptions and Writing Ancient History*, whose focus lies in the subtitle, *Historical Scholarship in the Late Renaissance*.[9] It traces the fascinating story of the invention of the modern discipline of epigraphy from the mid-sixteenth-century collections of *Fasti et triumphi Romani* by Panvinio onwards through the major scholars of that century. Central questions such as the problem of forgery, the reliability of texts, and the use of inscriptions as evidence for history form the core of the volume, and two appendices offer help with biographical notes on unfamiliar figures and a bibliography of manuscripts. The production is glossy and the illustrations beautifully produced. The one regret is the price – £50 for a paperback volume of 204 pages – which may deter some of the non-specialist readers to whom a volume of such interest should appeal. Another work on the history of scholarship brings us forward from the sixteenth century to the early twentieth. *The Owl of Minerva* offers an intriguing insight into the world of Classics in late-Victorian and Edwardian Cambridge.[10] It takes as its focal point the competition which took place in 1906 to fill the Regius chair of Greek left vacant after the death of Sir Richard Jebb. The competition required, for the last time, that the candidates expound in the Senate House on 'part of a book written in the Greek language'. The volume under discussion uses this occasion as the cue for a series of extremely interesting and engaging biographical assessments of the five would-be successors and their work, prefaced by two important essays on Jebb himself by the editor and by Pat Easterling. Wilamowitz' review (in Latin) of the praelections, the competition speeches, is printed after the essays, together with a translation for the faint-hearted. All in all, this slim volume contains a wealth of observations on the lives and works of some of the less-well remembered figures in our subject a century ago, as well as providing an enticing, or daunting, view of a more public world of scholarly

[8] *Classics and Colonialism*. Edited by Barbara Goff. Duckworth, London, 2005. Pp. viii + 166. Paperback £14.99.

[9] *Reading Inscriptions and Writing Ancient History*. Historical Scholarship in the Late Renaissance. By William Stenhouse. Institute of Classical Studies, School of Advanced Studies, London, 2005. BICS Supplement 86. Pp. x + 204, with colour and black and white plates. Paperback £50.

[10] *The Owl of Minerva*. The Cambridge Praelections of 1906. Reassessments of Richard Jebb, James Adam, Walter Headlam, Henry Jackson, William Ridgeway and Arthur Verrall. Edited by Christopher Stray. Cambridge UP, 2005. Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society. Supplementary Volume 28. Pp. viii + 172. Paperback.

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endeavour than most of us could now endure. The ever-growing body of scholarly knowledge in our subject is eloquently represented in **The Oxford Dictionary of the Classical World*,[11] an extremely useful abridgement of the much larger and more expensive *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. With over 2500 entries covering every aspect of life in the ancient world, this dictionary is both informative and approachable. It would make an excellent addition to the shelves of any school library or Classics department, as well as a handy and easy-to-use reference work for individuals interested in the subject at any level. It is a fitting memorial to a scholar and teacher of such distinction, and one who has done so much to foster the subject in Britain over many decades. This book will remind us of the debt we owe to John Roberts for many years to come. This period has also marked the appearance of three language books which will prove invaluable in schools, albeit to different degrees. The first is **Greek Unseen Translation*[12] by Stephen Anderson and John Taylor. The latter is now the editor of *New Surveys in the Classics*, but it is not bias which leads us to say that this book will fill a crucial gap. *Variorum* is now a desperately tired volume, and teachers up and down the country will rejoice to have a new set of passages into which to get their teeth and those of their students. Taylor is responsible for the first half of the book, including sections based on the OCR GCSE prescription, the new AS prescription, and a useful 'easy' verse collection (entirely culled from Euripides) to help ease the step between the AS and the A2 requirements. Anderson is responsible for the A2 prose and verse selections and has provided a good eclectic mix. In prose, Xenophon and Thucydides necessarily dominate, but the orators are represented (the fall of Elatea makes its way into yet another collection: will modern students know any other part of one of the greatest Greek speeches to survive from antiquity?); in verse, Euripides prevails, but six of Sophocles' plays appear, as well as Aeschylus and the *Prometheus*. As the authors warn in the introduction, the demands in these last two sections may surpass those of the examiners, not least in the absence of a run-in translation and in relatively ungenerous glossing; however, a challenge is no bad thing, and – as the authors point out – teachers can always choose to give extra help. We can be grateful for a very helpful job well done. On the Latin side, Ashley Carter, a long-standing OCR examiner, has filled a similar gap with the appearance of his **Latin Unseens for A level*,[13] which again will be able to take pressure off such long-serving stalwarts as Hyde. This offers forty passages of AS standard (again based around the new OCR Defined Vocabulary List), and forty-four of A2 standard. These last are all drawn from Cicero, Caesar, Livy, and Ovid (both elegiacs and hexameters). This more restricted selection reflects the more exam-orientated nature of this book than the Greek one, including as it does advice on and example schemes for the way in which passages are marked at both AS and A2. Carter does let his hair down slightly in the final section which offers twelve passages of a difficulty appropriate for the AEA in Latin from a much wider register of authors, including Erasmus, Tacitus, Propertius, Tibullus, and Valerius Flaccus. This is perhaps a less exciting offering than that of Anderson and Taylor, but one

[11] *The Oxford Dictionary of the Classical World*. Edited by John Roberts. Oxford UP, 2005. Pp. xiv + 858. Hardback £25.

[12] *Greek Unseen Translation*. By Stephen Anderson and John Taylor. Bristol Classical Press/Duckworth, London, 2005. Pp. vi + 122. Paperback.

[13] *Latin Unseens for A Level*. By Ashley Carter. Bristol Classical Press/Duckworth, London, 2005. Pp. 112. Paperback.

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which is already proving its huge utility in schools up and down the land. Last, and perhaps least, comes **Athenaze. An introduction to Ancient Greek. Workbook I.*[14] This is designed to be used in conjunction with volume 1 of *Athenaze*, offering as it does exercises on the grammar and vocabulary sections of the main book, as well as further reading passages (which are taken from the Italian edition of the textbook) and four cumulative vocabulary lists at even intervals. The extra exercises will be invaluable for those who use this course, but the fact that the answers are in the back will reduce the sales potential of this book in schools: it seems designed as more of an independent learning guide. Moreover, whether *Athenaze* actually requires further reading passages at all seems dubious. This book may prove a useful tool, but it cannot address the fundamental flaws of the original course, particularly in the unhelpful manner and order in which items of new accidence and syntax are introduced. We await the new edition of Taylor's *Greek to GCSE* with greater expectation. This last period has also seen the appearance of several books connected with the Olympics, ancient and modern, six of which we review here. These have been inspired not only by the 2004 Athens Olympics, but even further back by the Sydney reincarnation; when the Olympics come to London in 2012, it can be safely assumed that there will be an even greater revival of interest in the ancient version of the games amongst the general public in this country: to judge from these offerings, this will lead to books of widely differing quality. Judith Swaddling's **The Ancient Olympic Games*[15] saw the appearance of its third edition thanks to the Athens Olympics, this time with a foreword by HRH The Princess Royal and a new chapter on the modern Games. This book has become the vital school textbook for the athletics section of the GCSE classical civilisation course, but we are not sure that the latest edition is a massive improvement on the last; rather the publisher seems to have taken the opportunity of Athens to try to win new sales. That said, this remains a very readable and beautifully illustrated volume, which is careful to point out what we do not know as well as what we do. If that book is the beauty, the beast is David Young's *A Brief History of the Olympic Games*,[16] which is a singularly unattractive little volume. Since it is the first of a new Blackwell's series entitled *Brief Histories of the Ancient World*, it is only to be hoped that later volumes represent a huge improvement on this one. Young writes in a very polemical style at times, but most of his targets seem to be straw men. Who still really believes that Plato was a great athlete (pp. 81–2)? His appendix B, which is a 'Technical Note on Discus and Long Jump' is laughably brief and allusive in a book within a series which claims to be aimed at readers 'new to the subject' as well as specialists, and when the author of the book himself has claimed in the preface to be writing whilst 'having mainly in mind the interested general reader and college students' (p. xii). Why include such an appendix if it cannot stand on its own two feet? Its worst failing is one of the book's as a whole, namely the criminal shortage of pictorial evidence. Young includes a section on the evidence (pp. 16–23), in which he states that 'Our

[14] *Workbook I. Athenaze.* An Introduction to Ancient Greek. By Gilbert Lawall, James F. Johnson, and Luigi Miraglia. Oxford UP, 2004, second edition. Pp. iv + 162. Paperback.

[15] *The Ancient Olympic Games.* By Judith Swaddling, with Foreword by HRH The Princess Royal. The British Museum Press, London, 2003. Pp. 120, with 54 colour and 61 black-and-white illustrations. Paperback £9.99.

[16] *A Brief History of the Olympic Games.* By David C. Young. Blackwell, Oxford, 2004. Pp. xiv + 184, with 20 figures. Hardback £50; paperback £12.99.

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knowledge of how the events were actually performed relies heavily on the many pictures of athletes in the paintings which decorate vases unearthed around the Greek world.' However, the whole book offers only *six* illustrations drawn from such vases, a grave short-changing of the reader for a book which is priced at £50 in hardback. The best section is on Pindar, but here the author comes across as patronizing to his readers: 'His style is always extremely compressed, often allusive rather than explicit, sometimes even crabbed, and usually brilliant – worth the effort, most of us think.' (p. 69) Who is represented by 'us' here? Needless to say there are also errors, as in the figures on p. 100 for the prize for the winner of the chariot race: here the dollar conversions in the first place are unhelpful in the extreme – in what sense can we say that 140 amphorae of olive oil were the equivalent of $189,840? This again can only mislead the non-specialist reader at whom the book is aimed. This book has nothing to offer ahead of the richly illustrated and readable Swaddling, but if one is looking for more detail there is the excellent and comprehensively illustrated **Ancient Greek Athletics*[17] by Stephen Miller. This is a genuinely readable but detailed volume about many aspects of ancient athletics, which never talks down to its audience or engages in unnecessary polemic, but presents readers first-hand with the evidence on which the text is based. In all there are 291 illustrations (often with excellently informative captions) as well as a pointer to a web-site where even more can be found: Blackwell should note that all these illustrations come in a book priced at just £25 for a hardback copy. Miller has directed the excavations at Nemea and knows the subject in the tiniest detail from hands-on experience, and his chapter on 'The crown competitions' offers an extremely thorough account of the individual events, while the next on 'The sites of the crown competitions' is equally helpful about the archaeology of the four main sites, making particularly good use of aerial photographs as well as pictures of models and plans. Like Young he argues against the frequently stated link between the athletics of crown competitions and training for warfare, but adds nuance to the point by noting that the games celebrated in a more local way by particular *poleis* did have a more obviously military theme to them (p. 148). The chapters on the issue of amateurism and professionalism and the political dimensions of the games are also extremely helpful and suggestive. The only disappointment is perhaps the last chapter on *arete*, which is dealt with in a very cursory manner despite Miller's insistence on the importance of this quality for an understanding of ancient athletics. That said, this will prove to be both an extremely useful book to mine for particulars on ancient athletics and an enjoyable read from cover to cover. Zahra Newby's *Greek Athletics in the Roman World*[18] covers in much greater detail a period of ancient athletic history which Miller's book deals with briefly in one chapter. Like the latter, moreover, this is a well-illustrated and serious book. It is divided into two halves: in the first Newby argues that Roman hostility to Greek athletics has been overstated in the past, and that Nero and Domitian did not represent pro-Greek blips but in tune with the 'growing popularity of Greek body culture in the Roman baths' (p. 273), and even that Roman promotion of Greek athletic festivals can be seen as a way of imposing control on Italy or the western provinces by putting the emperor and Rome

[17] *Ancient Greek Athletics*. By Stephen G. Miller. Yale UP, New Haven and London, 2004. Pp. ix + 288. Hardback £25.

[18] *Greek Athletics in the Roman World*. Victory and Virtue. By Zahra Newby. Oxford UP, 2005. Oxford Studies in Ancient Culture and Representation. Pp. xiv + 314, with many figures and plates. Hardback £80.

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at the centre of what was becoming a festival industry. In the other half of the book, which focuses on the Greek East, Newby again stresses the broader import of athletics-related activities, with Athenian youths by their participation in the *ephebeia* proclaiming 'their adherence to traditional values' (p. 200), and with new Olympic victors asserting their own links with the past through the erection of statues and inscriptions alongside those of famous figures from Greek history. However, she emphasizes that the Greeks also sought to incorporate the contemporary world within the athletic context by including the imperial power of Rome within the prayers of the festivals and through the erection of statues of members of the imperial family within sanctuaries. As Newby concludes, 'athletics was one of the central symbols of Greek culture in the Roman period and thus played a crucial role in constructions of Greek identity . . . and in the Roman response to Hellenic culture' (p. 281), but the reader is perhaps left drawing his own comparison with the past: the period of Greek athletics to which these later Greeks were constantly alluding, at least before the time of Philip, had never had an overlord to whom they had been forced to pay homage. Athletics could still represent an opportunity for individual competition, but it now did so within a much more closely circumscribed field. *Sport and Festival in the Ancient Greek World*,[19] a volume edited by David Phillips and David Pritchard, is a collection of papers which originated from a conference held in Sydney in 2000 in the run-up to that city's hosting of the Modern Olympics (although several extra papers were subsequently specially commissioned for the publication of the book). It is a richly varied selection, with papers including those about the nature of the ancient Olympics (Miller again), the modern excavations of the site, Pindar and other literary figures with Olympic connections, Athenian festivals and a final part which really does offer something completely different. For there are three papers devoted to the special exhibition on the ancient Olympics hosted by Sydney's Powerhouse Museum in conjunction with the arrival of the Modern Games in the city. These describe the presentation of the material, with a separate paper on the creation of a computerized virtual tour of the ancient site which was included in the exhibition. The final paper analyses the public response to the display. To consider the way in which academic research is put across to the broader public is a tremendously important task, not least to ensure the accessible communication of material without speaking down to an intelligent audience, a trap which most – though not all – of these books have avoided. It is to be hoped that the classical community in London can take advantage of the surge of interest which the 2012 Olympics are sure to generate. The final book of this collection inspired by the Olympics is a rather more esoteric affair. In *A Simple Souvenir. Coins and medals of the Olympic Games*,[20] Peter van Alfen publishes a selection of ancient coinage connected with the ancient Olympics, both from Elis and that of victors from elsewhere in the Greek world. In the second half he concentrates on the medals and commemorative medals which have been produced by the organizers of the Modern Games. Readers are able to trace the changes in iconography through time, but there are also gems such as the description of the Montreal

[19] *Sport and Festival in the Ancient Greek World*. Edited by David Phillips and David Pritchard. The Classical Press of Wales, Swansea, 2004. Pp. xxxi + 416, with numerous illustrations. Hardback.

[20] *A Simple Souvenir*. Coins and Medals of the Olympic Games. By Peter G. van Alfen. The American Numismatic Society, New York, 2004. Pp. xi + 146, with many colour and black and white illustrations. Hardback.

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commemorative medal on p. 133: 'Weighing only forty grams and having the thickness of just three millimetres, the medal had a disappointingly cheap feel.' So, not only a simple souvenir, but a cheap one too.

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